

The Sun

50¢

SUN SPOTS
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Thursday, February 4, 1999 Western Palm Beach County's Hometown Newspaper Since 1923 Volume 76 / Number 3

Sun spots

Belle Glade sets sights on new city manager

By Brenda Bunting
Editor

Belle Glade City Commissioners have offered the position of city manager to Shelton W. Smith of Longwood, Florida.

According to Mayor D. Bill Mathis, if contract negotiations go as planned, Mr. Smith will probably start working for the city on March 1.

"Everything looks good for him coming to work on March 1," the mayor told the city commission at Monday night's regular city commission meeting.

Mr. Smith has 25 years of local government experience and is currently the city administrator for the City of Longwood.

He has been the city administrator since March of 1994.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama and a Master of Public Administration from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro.

He was the county manager in Troup County, Georgia for one year and the city manager in Pascagoula, Mississippi from 1986 to 1993. He was city manager of Bainbridge, Georgia from 1977 to 1986 and the city administrator of Claxton, Georgia from 1973 to 1977.

Mr. Smith was in the U.S. Air Force in the early 1970s and received the rank of captain. He has also been a vocational agricultural teacher in Georgia and Alabama.

Three Glades Central students sign letters of intent

The Glades Central High School Football Program has announced that three players from the 1998 4-A State Championship Team will sign national letters of intent.

Claude Harriott is a defensive & offensive lineman and the Palm Beach Post Defensive Football Player of the year.

He was selected as a defensive player in all conference, all area, all district and all state as well as serving as one of the team captains. He has signed a national letter of intent with the University of Pittsburgh.

Dwight Jackson, a defensive end, was recognized by the Palm Beach Post as one of its pre-season Super 11 players. He was selected as a defensive player in all area and in his junior year in all state as well as a team captain. He has signed a national letter of intent with the University of Florida.

Antonio Thomas, a wide receiver and quarterback, was recognized as a TV 12 player of the week. He was selected in all state, all area, all district & all conference as well as a team captain. He has signed a national letter of intent with Western Michigan University.

Glades Central student joins DC conference

Lucetta M. Jackson, a student at Glades Central High School, will travel to the nation's capital as a participant in the Presidential Classroom Scholars Program, America's premier civic education program. The program runs through this week.

Joining hundreds of high school students from across the country and abroad, Ms. Jackson will take part in seminars presented by leaders representing each branch of government, the military, media and business.

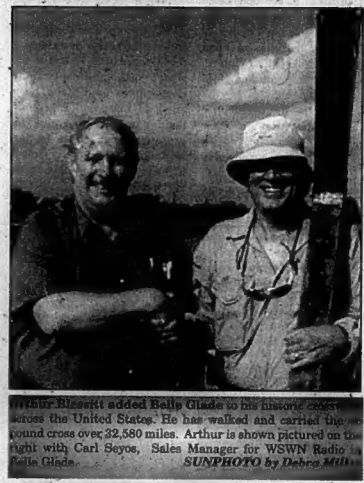
Students are also scheduled for a private tour of the White House, appointments with

their Senator's and Representatives' offices and a visit to a foreign embassy.

Small group workshops will focus on issues such as media, immigration and juvenile justice. Discussion and debate will be balanced with visits to Washington's monuments and the Smithsonian museums as well as an evening of political satire with The Capital Steps and a commencement celebration.

Since 1969, Presidential Classroom has provided more than 78,000 of America's finest students with unprecedented

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Arthur Blessitt added Belle Glade to his historic crosswalk across the United States. He has walked and carried the cross over 32,580 miles. Arthur is shown pictured on the right with Carl Seyoe, Sales Manager for WSWN Radio in Belle Glade.

Cross bearer comes through Belle Glade

By Debra Miller
Staff Reporter

Arthur Blessitt can't add Belle Glade to his historic crosswalk across the nation after he was spotted near the bowling alley with his cross.

Mr. Blessitt has just completed a historic and unprecedented crosswalk in every nation on earth.

He and his wife, Denise, have just returned from carrying the cross in North Korea.

He has carried, on foot, a 12 ft. cross of Jesus around the world since 1969; through wars, deserts, jungles, 227 countries, 7 continents and 32,580 miles. He is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 which lists this as "The World's Longest Walk."

Mr. Blessitt has faced a firing squad, been arrested 24

See CROSS Pg. 2

Herbicide may be the answer to cattail infestation in Everglades

A pilot project using an environmentally friendly herbicide and controlled burning of the Everglades marsh may be at least part of the answer to the cattail infestation choking out open-water habitat vital to alligators, wading birds and waterfowl.

Blake Sasse, wildlife biologist with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's (GFC) Wellington Field Office, reports that pilot cattail eradication began in early November when the GFC directed aerial spraying by helicopter of the herbicide Bodec in the Holy Land Wildlife Management Area in southwestern Palm Beach County.

"Almost one-third of the 35,000 acre area is covered with cattails," Mr. Sasse said. "Most of that growth has occurred since 1991. The explosion of cattails is, in large part, the result of damage suffered before water levels were restored to natural levels. The cattail growth was also fueled

by phosphorus run-off from agricultural areas."

Five different areas, totaling 80 acres, were treated with herbicide, according to Mr. Sasse. A month later GFC personnel returned and set a controlled blaze to clear out the dead and decaying cattails. GFC biologists will soon carry out follow-up surveys to determine the project's success.

The pilot program was a joint effort involving the GFC, the South Florida Water Management District, and the Broward County Chapter of Waterfowl U.S.A., a waterfowl hunter/conservationist group. The SFWM provided \$5,000 for the herbicide while Waterfowl U.S.A. footed the \$3,000 bill for helicopter rental.

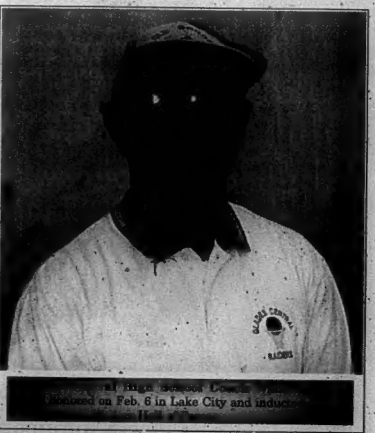
"Our GFC helicopter is not configured for spraying which required us to use a private helicopter service," said Mr. Sasse. "This experimental effort was primarily designed to provide additional open water areas to improve duck hunting

at Holy Land, a popular site for hundreds of area sportsmen. Creating more open water, however, will benefit a wide array of wildlife, including endangered snail kites.

"If the results are promising, we might see this approach used on a much larger scale throughout the Everglades," Mr. Sasse said. "This particular herbicide has minimal negative effects and has been approved for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This isn't a cure-all, but it may prove to be one more useful management practice in preserving the integrity of Everglades marsh habitat."

The Holy Land is located just north of the U-5 Levee, approximately six miles west of U.S. 27, and immediately east of the Miami Canal Levee. The site is popular among duck hunters and fishermen. It is one of more than 100 wildlife management areas maintained by the GFC throughout the state.

Lake Level
16.09 feet
above sea level
February 2, 1999



Willie McDonald, Coach of the Glades Central High School Football Team, was inducted into the Hall of Fame on Feb. 6 in Lake City and inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Glades Central Coach Willie McDonald in Hall of Fame

By Debra Miller
Staff Reporter

Coach Willie McDonald of Glades Central High School has been inducted into the "best of the best" athletes over the last few years.

He has led such local stars as Rafael Anthony who plays for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Fred Taylor who plays for the Jacksonville Jaguars, Jimmy Spencer who plays for the San Diego Chargers and Roosevelt Blackman who plays for the Cincinnati Bengals.

On Feb. 6, in Lake City, at

the Florida Sports Writers Hall of Fame Complex, Coach McDonald will be inducted. But he doesn't receive the honor for placing these young men on professional football teams, he is actually being inducted because of his coaching skills for track and field.

Coach McDonald has been at Glades Central High School since 1972. He previously worked at the local middle and elementary schools before he began coaching in his own words "by accident."

He teaches subjects such as

math, science and English in elementary school. As the high school level he taught physical education until he became Assistant Principal in 1974.

With Coach McDonald as boys' head track coach, Glades Central has won four state championships, was runner-up five times and won 13 regional championships in 4A and 3A divisions.

At one time, his track team won 21 straight district championships and 20 straight conference championships in track and field.

Drew Duda named to Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative Board

Walter Andrew (Drew) Duda Jr. has been appointed to fill the un-expired term of Edward Duda, his uncle, on the Board of Directors of Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida.

His term will run through the next annual membership meeting held in January 2000. The appointment was made at the January 21, 1999 Board meeting.

Drew Duda is the harvesting

manager of the vegetable division of A. Duda & Sons in Belle Glade.

He joined the family farming business upon graduation from the University of Florida in 1983. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Resource Economics.

Drew sits on the Board of Directors of the Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau, chairs the Palm Beach County Agricultural Enhancement Council, and sits on the advisory committees to the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Everglades Research and Education Center.

Drew resides in Loxahatchee with his wife Lisa and their two children.

"It's a honor and privilege to carry on the Duda family tradition of serving all of the mem-

bers of the Cooperative by being on the Board," Drew said. "I believe the Cooperative's members represent the best group of farmers in this part of the country."

Andy Duda, Drew's great uncle was a founding board member of the Cooperative. Upon his retirement in 1982, Edward Duda was appointed to the Board and has steadfastly served the Cooperative's membership until he retired in December 1998.

"We welcome Drew's interest and the expertise he brings to the Cooperative," George H. Wedgeworth, president of the Cooperative said. "It's been great to have had the Duda family's involvement in the Cooperative for over 39 years and we look forward to a continued history with this family farming operation."

CROSS/From Pg. 1

ing squad, been arrested 24 times, been through 49 countries at war, fasted 40 days, ran for President of the United States and has walked with 70,000 people across Poland.

He has been on all major news worldwide. Bill Graham has walked with him, Pope John Paul II has welcomed him to Rome, Yasser Arafat has welcomed him to Beirut and he has slept in Prime Minister Be-

gin's home in Israel.

He has carried the cross through such places as Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Somalia, Russia, China, South Africa, Lebanon, India, Antarctica, Nicaragua, Palestine, Israel, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan.

Mr. Blessitt, 57, began his journey at age seven when he received Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord of his life.

He married Denise Irja

Blessitt from England in 1990 and she accompanies him now on all his trips.

They plan now to carry the cross in "Celebration Crosswalks" in every U.S. state and every province in Canada. They also plan to make special "Celebration Crosswalks" back to revisit many nations.

Mr. Blessitt, who calls himself a follower of Jesus, says they are just simple servants of the Lord and says he tries to keep it simple.

I'm so happy I live in Florida

By Mike Lyons

"I am so happy I live in Florida." I must have said that sentence 50 times last week as snow and ice continued relentlessly across the northern half of the country.

I'm guessing that you're delighted to be here, too, especially if you phoned a relative or friend in New York, Ohio, Illinois or any location where the temperature is below freezing and the ground is all white.

After an unusually mild fall, powerful snowstorms swept across the Midwest and Great Lakes during the first two weeks of January, dumping several feet of snow.

Chicago reported its second heaviest snowfall in history, while Detroit and Cleveland were buried in over one foot of the white stuff. There was so much snow in Buffalo—54 inches in 14 days—the National Guard was brought in to dig out the city.

And, according to winter weather experts, it is just the beginning. A lot more snow is expected. So much of the white stuff that snowfall records may be broken across the northern half of the country.

Of course, it's also cold with temperatures in many locations dropping well below zero. And it is during an episode of particularly frigid winter weather that some people will raise an interesting question: Is it ever too cold to snow?

It is a fact that the coldest weather is often accompanied

by clear skies. Climate records of the northern United States and Canada bear out this claim.



Mike Lyons

On the other hand, for some Midwestern cities—like Denver, Bismarck and Minneapolis—March is both the mildest and snowiest of the winter months.

In Canada, outside of the mountains, average snowfall declines from more than 100 inches over the relatively mild southeast to less than 24 inches on the frigid shores of the Arctic Ocean.

Still, snowfall is possible even at extremely low air temperatures although snowflakes are small and accumulations are usually light.

That's because the relatively small amount of water vapor in

very cold air means that little water is available for precipitation. Cold air cannot hold as much water vapor as warm air.

Our famous humidity is a good example. Florida's warm temperatures hold an awful lot of water vapor that translates into hot and humid conditions all summer long.

Yet, when the temperature drops into the 50's during the winter, so does the humidity. In fact, your skin may feel dry because there is less water vapor in the air.

The same principle applies to snow. The heaviest snowfalls typically occur when the temperature is within a few degrees of freezing. On the other hand, moderate or heavy snow is unlikely when the temperature is below zero.

It would appear there is some hope for our friends across the Great White North. To cut down on the big snowstorms all that is needed is a huge Arctic break of cold temperatures. Anything below zero should do the trick.

So, the next time someone complains about heavy snow tell them about Greenland. Only about 2 inches of snow accumulates there all winter long. It is a bit cold, however, with an average temperature of 22 degrees below zero.

Like I said, "I'm so happy I live in Florida."

Mike Lyons is the Chief Weather Forecaster for WPBF-TV.

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| Sunday | 3 p.m. | BATTLE RE-ENACTMENT |
| | 11 a.m. | Hatchet Throwing Contest |
| | 1 p.m. | BATTLE RE-ENACTMENT |
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Seminole Tribe of Florida



More than \$458 million of inappropriate Medicare pay-outs prevented or recovered in 1998 by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF), the parent company of Florida's primary Medicare administrator, First Coast Service Options (FCSCO), prevented or recovered more than \$458 million in Medicare fraud, waste and abuse during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998. This represents a significant increase over the \$400 million BCBSF prevented or recovered in 1997, and further illustrates its commitment to allowing the growth of inappropriate Medicare program expenditures in Florida.

"These impressive results demonstrate that we are making significant progress in eliminating much of the blatant fraud, waste and abuse in Florida's Medicare program," says Patricia A. Williams, senior vice president and chief operating officer of FCSCO. "For every dollar we spent in safeguard efforts, we recovered \$18. The experience and capabilities that BCBSF has built in the Medicare arena will now be employed by FCSCO, as we continue our battle against those who would seek to defraud or abuse Medicare."

As announced earlier this year, FCSCO has now assumed BCBSF's former duties associated with the state's Medicare program, including Medicare Safeguard Program activities aimed at eliminating Medicare fraud, waste and abuse. FCSCO is the former Government Programs Division of BCBSF, which was the area previously responsible for overseeing the Florida Medicare

BCBSF's 1998 Overall Results

Based on the accomplishments of fiscal year 1998, Williams says she feels the company's strategy in fighting Medicare fraud, waste and abuse is working. She explains that this approach to rooting out Medicare fraud, waste and abuse has become much more proactive in recent years. This is primarily attributable to advanced technology that provides data analysis capabilities that help detect fraudulent or wasteful activities by identifying trends inconsistent with bona fide Medicare claims.

In the past, most Medicare fraud was blatant and often related to payment for non-rendered services or the absence of a verifiable Medicare provider or beneficiary. Today, many of the issues related to the submission of claims for services that don't meet Medicare guidelines or are medically unnecessary.

Other key accomplishments in fiscal year 1998 include:

- The identification and prevention of approximately \$192 million of inappropriate program payments through pre-payment medical review.
- The identification and recovery of approximately \$99 million of unallowable provider costs through retrospective financial audits.
- The avoidance or recovery of approximately \$107 million in situations where Medicare was

inappropriately billed or paid as the primary insurer.

- The preparation and referral to law enforcement of over 50 case files documenting fraudulent or abusive actions.
- The collection of approximately \$44 million resulting primarily from retrospective medical audits of physicians and suppliers.

Safeguard Strategy

According to Director of Benefits Integrity Karen Monson, both BCBSF and FCSCO employ HCFA's several-part strategy to fight Medicare fraud, waste and abuse. The strategy emphasizes prevention through increased claim scrutiny to ensure that covered beneficiaries are receiving appropriate care and providers are receiving appropriate reimbursements. More specifically, Monson notes, the strategy focuses on:

- Paying for the right service ensures that payments are issued for the medical care a beneficiary actually received and needed.
- Paying for services on behalf of the right beneficiary ensures that payments are always associated with eligible beneficiaries.
- Paying the right provider ensures that payments are going to entities that are legitimate, act in a reasonable manner and render quality care.
- Paying the right amount ensures the accuracy

of reimbursements by utilizing correct fee schedule prices and properly applying deductible coinsurance amounts.

"Maintaining a strong focus on these four measures keeps us out in front in the challenge to safeguard the integrity of the Medicare program," concludes Monson.

BCBSF performs Medicare business under contract, through the national Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association for Part A (hospital services). For Part B (physician services), BCBSF contracts directly with the Health Care Financing Administration, the Federal government agency that oversees Medicare.

FCSCO is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BCBSF. BCBSF is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies. A financially strong, tax-paying mutual company, BCBSF is subject to the same regulation by the Department of Insurance as other health care organizations operating in Florida. Standard and Poor's affirmed its "A+" claims-paying ability and credit ratings of BCBSF, and A.M. Best affirmed its "A" rating. The ratings are based on BCBSF's strong market position, good earnings profile and excellent capitalization. More information about BCBSF can be found on the World Wide Web at www.bcbsfl.com.

FDA recommends: Baby your child's teeth

February is National Children's Dental Health Month, and the Florida Dental Association celebrates by teaching new parents how to care for their infants' teeth.

Sometimes, new parents don't realize the importance of caring for their infant's teeth. Serious tooth decay can affect very young children. A child's primary teeth are eventually replaced by permanent ones. But primary teeth are critical for proper chewing, speaking and appearance. Great care should be taken to keep them clean and healthy.

An infant or young child's primary teeth can be affected by baby-bottle tooth decay (also called nursing-bottle mouth). This condition develops when a baby frequently receives a bottle of milk, formula, fruit juice or other sweetened liquid as a "pacifier." Prolonged "demand" breastfeeding also may cause this condition. The upper front teeth are the most likely to be

affected, but others also may be affected.

Tooth decay is caused by bacteria. Bacteria are present in plaque, a thin film that constantly forms on teeth. Bacteria use sugar for energy to produce acids that attack tooth enamel. All types of sugars - including those in bottle and breast milk, formula, fruit juice and sweetened liquids - can cause plaque bacteria to produce decay-causing acids. Frequent, lengthy exposure to these acids can result in tooth decay.

Parents can help protect their baby's teeth by doing the following:

- After each feeding, wipe the child's teeth and gums with a clean, damp washcloth or gauze pad to remove plaque. Begin brushing your child's teeth as soon as the first tooth appears. This usually occurs by six months.
- Don't put a baby to bed with a bottle of milk, formula, fruit juice or sweetened liquid.

If your child needs a comforter between regular feedings, at night, or during naps, fill a nursing bottle with cool water or give the child a clean pacifier recommended by your dentist or pediatrician. Never give a child a pacifier dipped in any sweet liquid.

Avoid filling a nursing bottle with liquids like sugar water, sweetened gelatin or soft drinks.

Make sure your child gets the fluoride needed for decay-resistant teeth. Talk to your dentist about recommended methods for obtaining the proper amount of fluoride.

Schedule regular checkups beginning by the child's first birthday.

With a membership of almost 6500 licensed dentists, the Florida Dental Association represents almost 80 percent of all Florida licensed dentists. The FDA's mission is to improve the public's health through professional and patient education and maintaining high practice standards.

Through the gift of unrestricted research funding, Christopher Reeve and others hope to walk again

(NAPSA) Freedom in biomedical research is what can ultimately lead to great discoveries and what might one day allow "Christopher Reeve" to walk again. The actor, who was paralyzed in a horseback riding accident four years ago, is placing his hopes in scientists like Dr. Fred H. Gage of The Salk Institute for Biological Studies and Dr. Dennis Choi of Washington University School of Medicine. "They are proof that the freedom to follow one's scientific instincts, with support from unrestricted funding, can increase the chances of progress."

Dr. Gage and Dr. Choi, both neuroscientists, are the first two recipients of the Christopher Reeve Research Medal, awarded by the Reeve-Irvine Research Center at the University of California Irvine College of Medicine, to individuals who have made recent critical contributions to promoting repair of the damaged spinal cord and recovery of function. Each of the scientists has also previously received a five-year, \$500,000 unrestricted neuroscience research grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation-Gage in 1988 and Choi in 1994.

Dr. Choi's research focused on creating interventions directed at limiting nerve cell destruction in the spinal cord after an injury. Interestingly, many nerve cells are not directly destroyed by the initial physical trauma such as that sustained by Mr. Reeve, but die hours or even days following the trauma.

Dr. Gage's research has centered around protecting non-renewable cells in the brain from damage such as that caused either by traumatic injury or Parkinson's disease, or Alzheimer's disease and other degenerative disorders, by

using viruses to deliver growth factors directly to these cells. These non-renewable cells are crucial to learning and memory.

Mr. Reeve himself is upbeat about the future of spinal cord research. He has predicted he will stand on his own power by his 50th birthday, though he knows much further research is needed before spinal cord injury can be reversed.

"New discoveries will enhance the chances for recovery of function as well as reduce the nation's healthcare costs," says Reeve. "The Christopher Reeve Research Medal is very special to me because it shows that we are serious about supporting scientists who are conducting groundbreaking research in spinal cord injury."

"The fact that research by our unrestricted neuroscience grant recipients is being recognized by the Christopher Reeve Research Medal confirms that we must continue to support highly innovative research and allow scientists the freedom to follow uncharted paths in scientific investigation. Christopher Reeve's award of recognition and our company's unrestricted funding are key to maintaining hope for the 250,000 Americans with spinal cord injury," says John Damouth, president of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation.

The no-strings Bristol-Myers Squibb Unrestricted Biomedical Research Grants are given in various areas of research to encourage just this kind of unconstrained exploration that can lead to unexpected breakthrough discoveries. The Christopher Reeve Research Medal recognizes the fruits of such unfettered research, honoring long-standing leadership and outstanding work in spinal cord injury research.

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OPINION PAGE



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Keep him in office

"I'm against removing President Clinton from office. I think he's doing a super job and I'd love to see him finish out his term. Thank you."

Few arrests?

"I see where the Belle Glade Police Department has 681 complaints, worked 7 crime scenes and gave 23 traffic citations. It doesn't look to me as if there are too many arrests there. What, they don't want to do the paperwork or what?"

Michael R. Miller, Interim City Manager and Chief of Police responds: "The Belle Glade Police Department in 1998 made 573 felony arrests, 699 misdemeanor arrests, issued 1,156 traffic infraction citations, 281 criminal traffic citations and responded to 34,899 complaints which resulted in 7,154 investigative reports. If you would like to learn more about the complexities of professional law enforcement and the laws of arrest, search and seizure investigative procedures, rules of evidence, constitutional law, reporting procedures, etc., please feel free to contact me at 561-996-7270."

Rude workers

"Hi, I'm calling in reference to the Speak Out titled 'Caller has Concerns.' This was directed to the Palm Beach County Health Department and the two ladies who work in that area are very rude and surely they do not have your referrals ready when you need them. Thank you."

Potholes and more

"I'm calling because I'm concerned about the Pahokee Housing Authority and the Fremd Village and the potholes. I called about two weeks ago and I spoke out about the potholes in the road. Then they called and commented on the subject."

My comment back to them is, I've been calling them for the past eight months and they have pretty much brushed me off. Now that I have gone public with this claim they are going to get the potholes fixed."

If they ever had to ride up and down these streets every day and every night to get home they would realize why I am so upset about the potholes."

Another thing, what about the housing in

Fremd Village? We have a lot of people who have their ceilings falling down on them. A lot of people's bathtubs have fallen through the floors. I know this is project housing, but people should not have to live like this. Sometimes they want to give us high water rates, raise our rents for different situations (like if our ceilings fall through on the floor). I feel they should do their job. They get certain grants for the housing authority and so they should do their job and not just brush us off and act as if we're just project people and we don't matter. We pay our rent on time and we pay our bills just like they do. We're human and we shouldn't have to live like animals."

Please ask them to do their job and cover up those holes and fix our houses. "Thank you very much."

Victor B. Atkins and Julie Hale with the Pahokee Housing Authority respond: "The Pahokee Housing Authority's staff and Board of Commissioners are committed to providing safe and decent housing for residents of our community. We work continuously with the Resident's Association in order that the best decisions are made in improving our communities. Understandably so, there are serious concerns relating to the parking courts in Fremd Village. The residents have been very patient, and we are very appreciative of that fact. The caller is correct, we have received money to repair the parking courts, however, there is a lengthy process involved when following federal guidelines with respect to procurement. The courts, however, are still at the top of our agenda."

As for the caller's concern regarding falling ceilings and bathtubs, such conditions are extremely dangerous and should be reported to the authority immediately. The PHA conducts an annual inspection on each unit as required by the Department of HUD. During the inspection, the Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspector documents all failing conditions, and we make every effort to make these repairs in a timely manner. The residents, however, have an obligation to notify the authority of known needed repairs, as well as conditions that threaten their safety."

In response to the issue of increased water rates, the PHA has not raised its water rates in several years. Residents are given water allowances that vary according to unit sizes. The residents are responsible for the amount in excess of their allowance only. In most cases, the PHA pays the city in excess of \$30,000.

See SPEAK OUT/Page 5

**177 NW 16th Street, Suite 6
Belle Glade, FL 33440
Phone: 561-996-4404
Fax: 561-996-2200**

A PLEDGE TO OUR READERS

We pledge...

- ✓ To operate this newspaper as a public trust.
- ✓ To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- ✓ To provide the information citizens need to make their own decisions about public issues.
- ✓ To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- ✓ To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- ✓ To correct our errors, and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- ✓ To provide a right to reply to those upon whom we write.
- ✓ To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

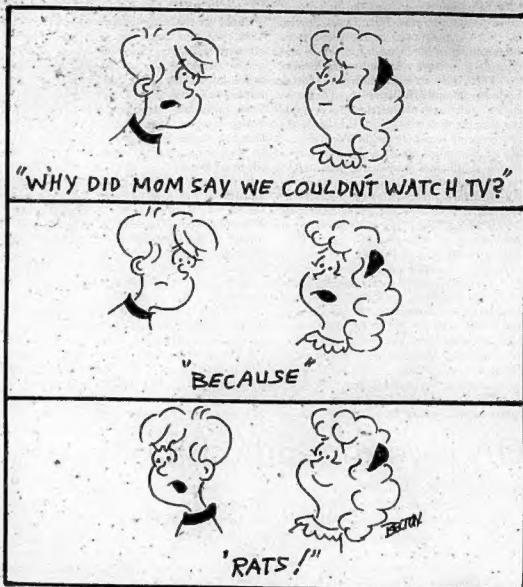
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Tobacco settlement helps UF evaluate Florida's youth smoking habits

By Kristen Vecellio
University of Florida News

New research from the University of Florida shows less than one-third of those who know about the state's new Truth youth anti-smoking campaign think it will cause youth smoking to decline. The university hopes its research results will help the state combat youth smoking more effectively.

Funding for the study came from \$286,572 the university's Communication Research Center received as part of the \$11.3 billion tobacco settlement from the Department of health to help the state combat youth smoking through a three-pronged evaluation of the state's smoking habits and tobacco-promotion activities.

"We're very interested in what's going on in retail sales of tobacco, from stores and vending machines to targeting of ethnic groups," said Mary Ann Ferguson, assistant dean for research at UF's College of Journalism and Communications and study director.

The first of the three evaluations included a report of Citizens' Opinions About Tobacco: Florida's Truth Tracking Survey. The three surveys tracked public attitudes on the tobacco industry and the Truth youth anti-smoking campaign.

The June survey found only 23 percent of adult Floridians smoke, but 53 percent have smoked at least five packs of cigarettes in a lifetime.

A majority, 58 percent, of the

respondents felt tobacco companies have tried to mislead youth to get them to purchase their product, and three-fourths of the respondents agreed that "in spite of what they say, tobacco companies use advertising to attract young people."

The same survey also measured awareness of the new Truth anti-smoking campaign targeted at youth. Forty-four percent of the survey respondents were aware of the campaign and 63 percent of those respondents like the campaign in general with 73 percent of those same respondents liking the intent and tone of the campaign.

The second prong of the evaluation targeted tobacco sponsorship of events that attract school-age children. Six counties - Duval, Gadsden, Miami-Dade, Hendry, Brevard and Citrus - were chosen based on the demographics of their school districts: either rural or urban/black, white or Hispanic.

Researchers monitored the prevalence and availability of tobacco at 174 events in these counties. The events included motor sports, music festivals, fairs and sporting events; events held at sports bars were most likely to have tobacco present.

Although only 24 events had tobacco products for sale, 62.5 percent of those events did not have readily observed regulatory or warning signs regarding tobacco sales to minors, as required by state law.

Hendry and Citrus school districts, classified as rural Hispanic and rural white districts, respectively, had the largest percentage of events where tobacco was present. Urban black Duval and urban Hispanic Miami-Dade had the smallest percentage.

The final prong of the research took a look at tobacco advertising patterns in five types of Florida stores: gas station/convenience stores, convenience stores, drug stores, grocery stores and gas stations. Each of the 393 stores surveyed was analyzed for the presence of exterior and interior advertisements and themes of the marketing.

Ferguson said point-of-purchase campaigns by tobacco companies were pervasive in Florida. She said researchers looked for product placement, appeal of ads, fliers, handouts and regulatory and warning signs.

"It's quite informative to actually visit these stores," she said. "Ads covered whole buildings, fences, gas pumps, sidewalks and shopping baskets."

In 20 percent of the stores, researchers did not see regulatory signs, and signs regarding smoking risks were found in only 40 percent of the stores.

Ferguson said these study results have been presented to the Florida Pilot Program on Tobacco Control so they can evaluate their youth anti-smoking campaigns and mold them to combat tobacco advertising even better.

Looking back through time...



Recognize anyone? This file photo was taken in the early 1970's in Belle Glade, but we don't know who is in the photo or why they were given awards. Any readers who know the answers can call us at 996-4404 and we will print the information in next week's edition.

Sun Spots



Giant Yard Sale

The United Methodist of Community Methodist Church will be holding a Giant Yard Sale in Jameson Hall located at 401 S.W. 1st Street on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 7 a.m. until 12 p.m. Lots of good buys available.

Valentine's Day dinner

The Belle Glade Elks Lodge is sponsoring a Valentine's Day Candlelight Prime Rib Dinner on Sunday, Feb. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the lodge on Avenue E.

Dinners are \$12.95 and reservation must be made by Feb. 10. Call 996-1716 to make your reservations.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group

The Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group meets every second Tuesday of the month from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Pahokee Civic Center. The center is located at 360 East First Street, Pahokee.

For more information about the meetings or any of the services offered by the Alzheimer's Community Care Association, please call Sandy Choate at 924-7283.

Head Start Centers offer free and reduced meals for children

The East Coast Migrant Head Start Project offers free or reduced lunches to children in four of their centers located in the Glades.

The program is offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Child and Adult Care Food Program" and is available at: The Early Head Start Center and the O'Brien Center on 18th Street, Belle Glade; the Shannon Center on Duda Road, Belle Glade; and at the South Bay Center on US 27.

For more information contact the individual centers.

Openings for children at East Coast Migrant

DC/From Page 1

access to Washington's halls of power and the people shaping public policy. Alumni have gone on to be leaders in their own communities and many, like U.S. Representative Chet Edwards and U.S. Senator Robert Torricelli,

Head Start

Four of East Coast Migrant Head Start's centers have vacancies for children at their locations. The free program is for low-income children ages six weeks to five years. Also eligible for Head Start are children with disabilities. Applicants must meet family income guidelines.

East Coast Migrant Head Start runs from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and provides breakfast, lunch, and a snack.

Centers include the South Bay Center at 996-2939, the O'Brien Center at 996-1473, Early Head Start at 996-5453 and the Shannon Center at 996-2232.

Head Start accepting children

Belle Glade Family and Children Services, PEPPi Head Start Program is now accepting applications for three and four year old children.

All children are welcome to attend, including children with disabilities. There are no fees.

The center is located at 200 S.W. 9th Street, Belle Glade.

For more information, call Tammy Kyles or Barbara Green at 996-1718.

Free transportation

The Division of Senior Services will be providing medical transportation from the Glades area to Royal Palm Beach, Wellington and West Palm Beach for those persons who are 60 and over.

Please call Effie McNair at the Senior Services Center, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or call 561-235-0400.

Volunteers sought for Red Cross

The Glades area service center of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the American Red Cross are in search of volunteers.

Volunteers are needed who are willing to be trained in water safety, CPR or First Aid instruction. Volunteers are also needed for other tasks at

the Red Cross office in Belle Glade.

To volunteer call 992-9703 or (941) 675-3000.

Activities for seniors open and free

Glades residents 65 years old and older are invited to participate in activities held daily at the West County Senior Citizen Center, 2916 St. Road 15, Belle Glade.

Administrator Effie McNair said many fun activities are scheduled for the participants, including a birthday cake and punch party held the last Friday of each month. Other activities include weekly movies, monthly trips to the mall, and craft classes. Fire prevention and safety classes can be held in Seniors' homes and free blood pressure screening is offered.

For more information or transportation, call Mrs. McNair at 996-4808.

Bereavement Support Group offered

Hospice of Palm Beach County is offering bereavement support for local residents. Anyone who is having a difficult time dealing with the death of an important person in their life, struggling with loneliness and a changing social role, is invited to attend. For further information call 996-1285.

Baha's plan Sunday meetings

The Baha'i community in the Glades will be holding spiritual meetings each Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Magdalene Carney Baha'i Institute, 130 S.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Belle Glade. A prayer session begins at 10 a.m. and classes for adults, youth and children start at 10:30 a.m. A covered dish luncheon will take place at noon and a youth workshop begins at 1 p.m.

Anyone needing additional information can contact Elinor Walker, coordinator at 996-1959.

To participate, students must be juniors or seniors in high school, hold a "B" average or higher or rank in the top 25 percent of their class and show commitment to community or school involvement through participation in co-curricular activities.

SPEAK OUT/FROM PG. 4

each month for water and sewer charges and less than \$4,000 are billed to the residents.

Our aim is to create opportunities for residents and create self-sufficiency through service delivery. We cannot accomplish this without the community's support. In spite of our efforts, there are only a few residents who share actively in this commitment. We have an open door policy and welcome input at all times. We encourage the caller to become active with the Resident Association. The association participates regularly in goal setting, decision-making, policy establishment, and so forth. The Resident Leaders meet regularly to address concerns of residents, but participation is very minimal.

mal.

Lastly, in an effort to refocus the image of Public Housing, we have long discontinued the use of the word "projects" when referring to PHA's developments or complexes.

We sincerely thank *The Sun* for giving us the opportunity to respond to this Speak Out article."

Thank you

"This is the lady who called recently and left a Speak Out on my mother's medical care that she's getting at the health department."

We have gotten that all straightened out, thanks to Elizabeth Hernandez and Dr. Treneshel. They said they would take care of the problem and I just want to thank them for what they did for us.

Thank you very much for putting it in the newspaper."

Bus drivers

"A note about bus drivers. I've seen some who drive wild. They speed, do not stop for stop signs, just slow and then go. I don't mean just one driver, I've seen several. They are rude."

They should have a number to call direct on the back of every bus with the number of the bus.

They should investigate and write the driver up if they are driving dangerously and after the third complaint they should be fired.

The bus drivers think they are like a policeman, over the public."

CRIME STOPPERS



Darrell Latrall Hickman

Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County, Inc. is asking citizens to help locate Darrell Latrall Hickman, who is wanted for violation of probation on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and possession of marijuana with intent to sell.

Hickman is 5'8" tall, and weighs 160 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes and his date of birth is September 20, 1970. His last known

address was 1920 Bacom Point Road, Pahokee. His Social Security number is 262-73-1088 and his last occupation is unknown. His warrant was active as of January 26, 1999.

If you know the whereabouts of Darrell Latrall Hickman, or anyone involved in a serious crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-8477. You can remain anonymous and still receive a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

Agriculture scholarships awarded

The Eastern and Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureaus awarded two \$1,000 Agriculture Scholarships on January 27 at the South Florida Fair.

The recipients of the Agriculture Scholarships were Ms. Gina Abbadessa of Loxahatchee and Ms. Heather Thompson of Lake Worth.

The scholarships were awarded to these students because of their interest and participation in livestock and agriculture.

The two recipients were selected on the basis of competition by the Agriculture committee of the South Florida Fair.

The money for the scholarships was raised by the farm bureaus at their Farmer's Market tent at the South Florida Fair by the sale of fresh, locally grown produce. A survey of 1999 fairgoers by officials of the South Florida Fair found that the Farmer's Market tent sponsored by the farm bureaus of Palm Beach County

was rated as one of the best displays of the fair.

The Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau would like to extend congratulations to Ms. Lawanna Caruso, executive director of the Eastern Palm Beach County Farm Bureau, Ms. Eva Webb, Field Services Representative for District 7 of the Florida Farm Bureau, Ms. Ann Holt of the Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau for their efforts to make this display one of the best at the South Florida Fair.

Arrest Blotters

Editor's note: The police news on this page lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.

PAHOKEE

The Pahokee Police Department made 11 arrests the week of January 25-31.

Those arrested included:

January 25 - No arrests.

January 26 - Charlie McKelton, 41, felony retail theft and trespassing; Isaac Smith, 29, retail theft and trespassing after warning.

January 27 - Juvenile, 15, inciting a riot and throwing a deadly missile into an occupied vehicle; Gregory Kestrell, 18, battery on a detention staff member; Juvenile, 15, battery on a detention staff member; Juvenile, 14, battery on a detention staff member.

January 28 - Robert Simpson, 31, burglary; Juvenile, 16, battery on a detention staff member; Juvenile, 16, grand theft.

January 29 - Jamariah Boule, 16, disorderly intoxication.

January 30 - Reese Benjamin, burglary, grand theft auto and possession of burglary tools.

January 31 - Charles Freeman, 38, two warrants for failure to appear and violation of probation.

BELLE GLADE

The Belle Glade Police Department handled 632 complaints, worked 8 crime scenes and gave 13 traffic citations the week of January 25-31.

Those arrested included:

January 25 - No arrests made.

January 26 - Wendell Baldwin, 21, throwing a destructive device with intent to harm and possession of cocaine; Israel Heeter, 29, dealing in stolen property and grand theft; Lee Lawson, 42, dealing in stolen property and grand theft.

January 27 - Kimberly Dennard, 32, abuse of a disabled adult; Charles Barber, 28, two counts of failure to appear.

January 28 - Jimmy Lee McClorin, 37, burglary of a residence and grand theft.

January 29 - Charles Grey, 26, two counts of retail theft; Robert Parrish, 35, two counts of retail theft.

January 30 - Dewayne Wade, 22, petty theft; Terry Willis, 45, battery; Iran Torres, 46, stalking.

January 31 - Curtis Leon Hill, 31, two counts of failure to appear; Willie Charles Williams, 21, four counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and trespassing on school property; Juvenile, 14, trespassing on school property; Juvenile, 13, trespassing on school property; Juvenile, 13, trespassing on school property; Juvenile, 15, trespassing on school property; Juvenile, 15, trespassing on school property; Juvenile, 14, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.



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Thirty-eight students from the Cross Country Team and Fitness club enjoyed an awesome day at St. Thomas University. The NFL Experience had over 50 NFL top player names at drill stations teaching basic skills and lessons in life. Some issues were Say No To Drugs and Gangs, discipline, importance of staying school, listening and being a team player.

Nat Moore (former NFL Dolphin player) organized the event with Warren Moon as a special speaker. The students received free T-shirts, game bags with cards, bottles and posters. Ellen Smith would personally like to thank Orsenigo Farms for donating two vans. She would like to also thank the parents who chaperoned the event, Javier Almazan, Janet Lewis, Paul and Susie Orsenigo and Bridget Lutz.

Glades ARC training apprenticeship program begins second year

The Training Apprenticeship Program (TAP), a collaborative pilot project of Glades Area ARC, St. Lucie ARC and New Directions Inc. of Miami, has been funded by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. for the 1999 year. Other funders also contribute in each area to maintain the program, including the United Way of Palm Beach County for the Glades Area ARC program.

For its joint efforts in developing and implementing this innovative and replicable pilot program the Glades ARC and St. Lucie ARC each received The President's Award for the Association for Retarded Citizens of Florida at its 1998 Annual Meeting in Orlando. The program began with a 300 hour curriculum taught at Palm Beach Community College - Glades Campus. This

integrated and community inclusive component brought the Supported Employment client into the mainstream of education for career advancement.

Glades ARC's curriculum is geared for the Glades community and this special needs population and has built-in flexibility to address the presenting needs of the adult student. Beyond the curriculum, the environment fosters a sense of belonging and a rise of self-esteem consistent with that of an incoming freshman to a college setting.

The second phase of TAP is apprenticeship, volunteer placement or paid employment. The collaborative effort described between agencies to pilot this program extends at this point to a collaboration between each agency and the

employers in the community. The conventional Supported Employment model is applied when the client is job-placed, using a job coach in the employment setting at no expense to the employer to ensure quality work during the new employee training period.

For the Glades area the greatest new impact on the Supported Employment model is the Federal Wages Program. As this "Welfare to Work" program has enticed more people out into the job market it has significantly increased the competition for entry level jobs.

TAP is a program intended to respond to this challenge, providing a higher skill level for its participants and making them more competitive candidates for the current job market. For more information on TAP call 996-9533.

Fish and game scholarship opportunity for students

Calling all classroom teachers, non-formal educators, park rangers, horticulturalists, animal experts, nature lovers and community volunteers in South Florida.

If outdoor education is part of your life and you want to create locally-based opportunities for young people to learn about the environment, Project Wild has something special to offer you.

Sponsored by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Project Wild is a nationally recognized curriculum designed for educators of kindergarten through twelfth grade. It provides hands-on activities that enhance learning in all subject and skill areas, as well as effective methods to teach problem solving and decision-making.

Now, funding is available for up to 20 interested individuals to participate in weekend workshops during the coming year. Free of charge!

All you have to do is contact the Project Wild office and sign up for the following two week-end-but hurry, space is filling up.

February 26-28 Project Wild Outdoor Weekend-Everglades Youth Camp, West Palm Beach. \$70 registration fee (free with scholarship) covers food, lodging and all materials. Workshop starts Friday morning and ends Sunday afternoon.

March 26-28 Annual Conference of LEEF, the League of Environmental Educators in Florida.

Live Oak, Fla. \$100 registration fee (free with scholarship) covers food, lodging and all materials. Conference starts Friday morning and ends Sunday afternoon. By participating in these two weekend events, you will become part of a local advisory group of educators who will have a direct impact on the quality of environmental education programs in your area. The Project Wild state office will assist you in using the materials and resources gained during these workshops to enhance educational activities in your local communities and natural areas.

In exchange for your commitment to participate in this

group, you will receive continued support from the state office in sustaining your local projects, contacts with other like-minded educators in your area and inclusion in a statewide network of environmental educators and leaders.

What else will you get in exchange for your commitment? Copies of the English version and newly-released Spanish language version of the Project Wild activity guide (K-12), copies of the new Everglades Curriculum for Middle School, one year's membership in LEEF, eligibility for hundreds of dollars in environmental education grant money for your project, lots of great information and interaction with the natural world and best of all - great friends. Call today and get involved.

For more information, contact Carrie Hamby at 850-488-4879 or write to:

Project Wild
Fish Game and Fresh Water
Fish Commission
620 S. Meridian St.
Tallahassee, Fla. 32399-1600

Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Anthony A. Jones

Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Anthony A. Jones, son of Arthur L. Jones of Belle Glade is currently halfway through a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans and Arabian Gulf, while assigned to the fast combat support ship USS Rainier, home ported in Bremerton, Washington.

During the deployment, Jones and fellow crew members have participated in Operation Desert Fox in which U.S. forces launched retaliatory missile attacks on military installations in Iraq. The attacks were made after President Saddam Hussein refused to allow U.N. teams to inspect Iraq for weapons of mass destruction.

Jones' ships main mission is to support the fleet through underway replenishment. The ship transports bulk petroleum products from shore depots directly to other auxiliary ships or combat forces underway. Jones' ship is capable of carrying more than 150,000 barrels of fuel, 625 tons of ordinance, 360 tons of dry provisions and 60 tons of refrigerated foods.

USS Rainier gives battle group commanders the capability, flexibility and mobility to sustain deployed forces underway for long periods. The 1978 graduate of Glade Central High School joined the Navy in August 1980.

Daniel P. Scott

Marine Cpl. Daniel P. Scott, son of Jack E. Scott of Belle Glade recently completed sustained training in Hawaii while assigned to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), embarked aboard the ship of the USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). During the training, Scott and fellow Marines refreshed basic skills in performing helicopter raids, patrolling, jungle warfare, tactical air control, demolitions training, fire support training and live-fire training. Scott's unit is an expeditionary intervention force with the ability to rapidly organize combat operations in virtually any environment. MEUs are composed of more than 2,000 personnel and are divided into an infantry battalion, an aircraft squadron, a support group and a command element.

He is a 1995 graduate of Glades Day School.



Dr. Herb Chapman and his wife Muncy were at the Belle Glade Branch Library for a book signing on Saturday, Jan. 30. Dr. Chapman is a professor emeritus of the University of Florida, where he served for 25 years conducting research to improve the Florida cattle industry. Muncy Chapman is pursuing a career in citrus and nursery management and has won numerous awards for her poetry, stories and articles for newspapers and magazines. They have released their new book "Winegrass Country." This book is a first in a series of "Florida Pioneer" books to be released by Pineapple Press. This exciting new historical novel depicts life in frontier Florida in 1836, a time when most of the peninsula was lush and untamed and when it was common sense to carry a gun at all times.

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Local recording artists Donnie Bures, Steve Compton, Long John, Phil Haire and Bill Dixon performing at the South Florida Fair in West Palm Beach.



Members of Glades Central's Criminal Justice Academy gave their Presentation of Colors at Monday night's Belle Glade City Commission meeting.



Belle Glade man sentenced to 39 years in murder case

By Mindy Saunders
Clewiston News Reporter

Jorge Ginebra, 40, the Belle Glade man convicted of kidnapping and second degree murder in the killing of James G. Woodling, was sentenced last week in Circuit Court to 472.7 State Prison months (39.39 years) in Florida State Prison.

Ginebra was found guilty as charged on December 18 in the January 11, 1997, slaying of the 63-year-old Woodling.

The State, represented by Assistant State Attorneys Amira Dajani, Sweet and Anthony Kunesek, laid out a case for the jury that described a drug deal gone wrong. Despite a mainly circumstantial case, it was enough for the jury.

Evidence included Ginebra having been the last person Woodling was seen alive with; Ginebra and two other men having been seen at a camp site near Fishbaiting Creek in Glades County, where Woodling's headless body was found; and audio tapes of the kidnappers' calls to Gladys King, Woodling's girlfriend.

At one point in the tapes Woodling says to one of his kidnappers "It's up to you, Jorge."

Three days later, Woodling's headless body was found in a shallow grave near Fishbaiting Creek in Glades County by law enforcement officers.

Ginebra was arrested on June 3, 1997, by Florida Department of Law

Enforcement after a joint investigation by their agency, the Hendry County Sheriff's Office, the Glades County Sheriff's Office, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the State Attorney's Office and the FBI.

The state claims Ginebra, who admitted being at the scene but not to killing Woodling, was a principal in the slaying.

Family and friends pack courtroom.

Despite the tearful pleas of family members and the pastor of the Baptist Church in Belle Glade before the court, Circuit Judge John S. Carlin first denied a motion for acquittal or a motion for a new trial by defense attorney James Cassidy.

Judge Carlin asked those persons in the courtroom who wished to speak on Ginebra's behalf to come forward. Ginebra's father, who came to this country with his family from Cuba in 1969 pleaded through an interpreter for the Judge to recognize that his son was not a violent man. His three step-daughters, whose words could barely be heard over their sobs, told the Judge what a good father he was.

The convicted man's wife was among the 11 speakers whose inexpressible grief was evident.

"He could not have done this," she said.

The Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Belle Glade,

spoke movingly of Ginebra's conversion a year and a half ago and implored the Judge to be lenient to this man "who has been a good son and a good father. I'm asking God and you to be lenient," he said. "Please have mercy on him."

And Ginebra himself, who had remained silent during his trial, spoke at last saying, "I wish I could say I'm sorry, but I didn't do it. I feel bad to be convicted of something I hadn't done."

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Shirley and Dot of the Chamber and Tina Provenzale and her talented assistants are busy creating a clever array of decorations. The theme this year is "Dream Big" and the groups

fully intend to push towards that theme through the year of 1999!!

Reservations can still be made by calling the Pahokee Chamber of Commerce at 924-5579. The cost is \$25 per person but you better hurry!!

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Fine Arts - Country Crafts

Exhibits - Demonstrations

Children's Events

Fabulous Food

Continuous Entertainment



The Sun

Ways to help teach children kindness

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Using actual reported phenomena, as well as cultural myths and folklore, the series follows the exploits of 14-year-old Fiona "Fi" Phillips (Cara Delizia), a computer-savvy kid from the fictional town of Hope Springs, Colorado who has an obsession for all things weird.

Sa Weir chronicles Fi, her 15-year-old brother, Jack and Molly, (Mackenzie Phillips), their rock star mom, in their home on wheels-a custom touring bus-as they travel across the United States. A popular musician in the '70s, Molly is on a "comeback" tour and delighted that her children can travel with her. Also along for the trip

are Jack and Fi's friend, Clu Bell, and his dad, Ned, who acts as the band's roadie and his mom, Irene, who is the band's manager.

Mackenzie Phillips, who burst on the acting scene in *American Graffiti*, stars as Molly Phillips who will also have the opportunity to use another of her talents on the show-singing. In her 20's, Phillips spent three years touring the world with her father when he re-created the legendary group The Mamas and the Papas.

The concept for *Sa Weir* came about when Henry Winkler worked with Michelle Davis and Alec Griffith on the 1991 documentary *The UFO Report: Sightings for Fox Television Network*, which proved to be their highest-rated Friday night show since Fox's inception. Winkler mentioned to them his interest in developing a show for children centering around the paranormal.

Sa Weir is shot entirely on location in Vancouver, British Columbia.



Aborigines are thought to have been able to cross the Torres Strait from New Guinea to Australia, then at least 43 miles across, as early as 55,000 B.C.

KIDS

FIND THE HOBBIES

There are 14 hobbies hidden-throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backwards and forwards.

BAKING PAINTING
BIKING PHOTOGRAPHY
COOKING READING
HIKING SEWING
JOGGING SINGING
KNITTING WOODWORKING
MODELING WRITING

H P G S W E S I G O O K
I H I E K I N G W J T I R
N O B W G N K O O C R
K F A I G C O O K G P E
G O G N I D A E R G A A
N G N G N S I N G I N G
I R T N W T I G N O N M S
K A B A K I N G J G O I
R P T B I K I N G I D G
O H O T G R K T A N N E N
W Y B A K N N G I T L G
D N I T T I N K M I N
O P M K O R P A I D G E
W R I T I N G B O O T G
O Y D L I E R B A T N G

KIDS' CROSSWORD

CLUES
Across:
1. Not true
4. Condiment
6. Understands
Down:
1. Utensil used when eating
2. Four less than a dozen
3. Bird
5. Green vegetables

swonK & quitoK & salsI 1 3807CA
889 & 8 xtrK & 8 JgI & 8 xtrK 1 3807CA

new word
PESKY
ANNOYING; TROUBLESOME

HOW THEY SAY IT IN...
ENGLISH: ARM
SPANISH: BRAZO
ITALIAN: BRACCIO
FRENCH: BRAS
GERMAN: ARM
LATIN: BRACCHIUM

TIME LINE 1785
"ENGLISH PORT WILLIAM COOPER PUBLISHED 'THE TASK'."
"FRENCH NAVIGATOR LA PEROUSE SAILED TO THE PACIFIC TO FIND THE NORTH-WEST PASSAGE."
"NEW YORK CITY SECURES THE TEMPORARY CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES."
"NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER JOHN WALTER FOUNDED THE TIMES OF LONDON."
"FOOD FACT"
"ARTY FACT"
"SPACE FACT"

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LOCAL GANDY ROUTE. 30 Vending Machines. Earn appx. \$800/day. AB for \$9,995. Call (800) 998-VEND. AIN #1998-040. FCAN. 2/4

UNLIMITED INCOME POTENTIAL! Don't miss out on your opportunity to be part of the fastest growing and most successful MLM company in the world. Unique products everyone can benefit from this home based business has the best compensation plan in the industry. 23 year track record. The security of residual income. The time is now! Want to learn more? (Zero cost or obligation) 800-769-4100. 2/4

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TION: Call Wayne Carter, 561-924-2453, beeper 787-0406. tin

STEVE'S MOWING SERVICE Lots, acreage & bush hog. Call (561) 996-9527. tin

Homes for Sale

PUBLISHERS NOTICE: All rental & real estate advertising in The Sun is subject to the Federal Fair Housing law which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin or any intention to make such preference, limitation or discrimination. In addition, the Palm Beach County Fair Housing Ordinance prohibits discrimination based on age, marital

status or sexual orientation. The Sun will not knowingly accept any advertising which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings are, available or an equal opportunity basis.

2548 SW 14TH ST., FAHO-KEE, 3BR/2BA, family room, fenced yard, many extras. Asking \$71,500. 994-3483. 2/25

Employment

AIM HIGH UP TO \$9000 enlistment bonus. If you qualify! Air Force training and education can help you reach your goals. For an information package, call 800-423-USAF or visit www.airforce.com. FCAN. 2/4

AVON PRODUCTS: Start your own business. Work flexible hrs. Enjoy unlimited earnings. Call toll-free, 888-842-4053. (fee) FCAN. 2/4

Assistant Restaurant Manager

Immediate opening for highly motivated, responsible individual at Burger King in Lake area. If you are friendly, hardworking, neat, ambitious and committed to providing excellent customer service, you are wanted. We offer competitive benefits. Salary starting at \$18,000 yearly. Send resume to: Southern Management Corp., 264 NW 88th St., Dade Glade, FL 33430. ATTN: Rod Philmore.

CHILDREN'S CASE MANAGER: Must have a Bachelor's degree in one of the Social Sciences. Excellent writing skills and ability to quickly establish a rapport with children and their families. Salary, \$22,000. Send to: M.



Local recording artists Donnie Buress, Steve Compton, Long John, Phil Haire and Bill Dixon performing at the South Florida Fair in West Palm Beach.



Members of Glades Central's Criminal Justice Academy gave their Presentation of Colors at Monday night's Belle Glade City Commission meeting.



Belle Glade man sentenced to 39 years in murder case

By Mindy Saunders
Cleveland News Reporter
Jorge Giniestra, 40, the Belle Glade man convicted of kidnapping and second degree murder in the killing of James G. Woodling, was sentenced last week in Circuit Court to 472.7 State Prison months (\$39.39 years) in Florida State Prison.

Giniestra was found guilty as charged on December 18 in the January 11, 1997, slaying of the 63-year-old Woodling.

The State, represented by Assistant State Attorneys Amira Dajani Swett and Anthony Kunasek, laid out a case for the jury that described a drug deal gone wrong. Despite a mainly circumstantial case, it was enough for the jury.

Evidence included Giniestra having been the last person Woodling was seen alive with; Giniestra and two other men having been seen at a camp site near Fishcating Creek in Glades County where Woodling's headless body was found; and audio tapes of the kidnappers' calls to Gladys King, Woodling's girlfriend.

"At one point in the tapes Woodling says to one of his kidnappers 'It's up to you, Jorge.'"

Three days later, Woodling's headless body was found in a shallow grave near Fishcating Creek in Glades County by law enforcement officers.

Giniestra was arrested on June 3, 1997, by Florida Department of Law

Enforcement after a joint investigation by their agency, the Hendry County Sheriff's Office, the Glades County Sheriff's Office, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the State Attorney's Office and the FBI.

The state claims, Giniestra, who admitted being at the scene but not to killing Woodling, was a principal in the slaying.

Family and friends pecked courtroom.

Despite the fearful pleas of family members and the pastor of the Baptist Church in Belle Glade before the court, Circuit Judge John S. Carlin first denied a motion for acquittal or a motion for a new trial by defense attorney James Cassidy.

Judge Carlin asked those persons in the courtroom who wished to speak on Giniestra's behalf to come forward. Giniestra's father, who came to this country with his family from Cuba in 1969 pleaded through an interpreter for the Judge to recognize that his son was not a violent man. His three step-daughters, whose words could barely be heard over their sobs, told the Judge what a good father he was.

The convicted man's wife was among the 11 speakers whose incoherent grief was evident.

"He could not have done this," she said.

The Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Belle Glade,

spoke movingly of Giniestra's conversion a year and a half ago and implored the Judge to be lenient to this man "who has been a good son and a good father. I'm asking God and you to be lenient," he said. "Please have mercy on him."

And Giniestra himself, who had remained silent during his trial, spoke at last saying, "I wish I could say I'm sorry, but I didn't do it. I feel bad to be convicted of something I hadn't done."

Judge upholds verdict.

But Judge Carlin upheld the jury's verdict and its clear message: Giniestra was a principal in the murder. His sentence of 472.7 State Prison months on each count of kidnapping and second degree murder will run concurrently.

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Saturday & Sunday, February 6-7

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Our 3rd Year

Five Arts Country Crafts

Exhibits • Demonstrations

Children's Goods

Refreshment

Continuous Entertainment



The Sun

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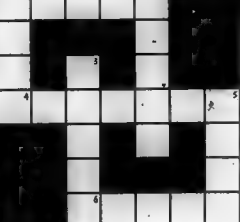
So Weird is shot entirely on location in Vancouver, British Columbia.

KIDS

FIND THE HOBBIES
There are 74 hobbies hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backwards and forwards.

BAKING PAINTING
BIKING PHOTOGRAPHY
COOKING READING
HIKING SEWING
JOGGING SINGING
KNITTING WOODWORKING
MODELING WRITING
H P G S W E S I G O O K I
I H I E K I N G I N G W J
N T O B A I G N I K O O C P R E
I K A B A I G C O O K I N G
K G O G N I D A E R G A A O
I R T N G N S I N G I N G M S
I K A B A I G I N G J G O I N
R P T B I K I N G I N G I N
O H O T G R T A N G I N G
W Y B A K N G I N G I N G
D G N I T T I K I N G I N G
O P M K O W A K I N G I N G
O H O N O R P A H D G E O
W R I T I N G B O O T I N G
O Y D L I E R E A T I N G

KIDS' CROSSWORD



- CLUES**
Across:
1. Not true
4. Gormandise
6. Understands
Down:
1. Utensil used when eating
2. Four less than a dozen
3. Bird
5. Green vegetables

Answers: 1. Not true, 4. Gormandise, 6. Understands, 1. Utensil used when eating, 2. Four less than a dozen, 3. Bird, 5. Green vegetables

TIME LINE 1785
-ENGLISH POET WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE PUBLISHED THE FIRST
-HUMAN ORIENTATION LAUNCHES THE FIRST MAP TO THE PACIFIC TO FIND THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE
-JOHN JAY BECAME THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES
-NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

HOW THEY SAY IT IN...
ENGLISH: ARM
SPANISH: BRASO
ITALIAN: BRACCIO
FRENCH: BRAS
GERMAN: ARM
LATIN: BRACCHIUM

new word PESKY
-PESSY, THE NEW WORD FOR ANNOYING, TROUBLE SOME



Aborigines are thought to have been able to cross the Torres Strait from New Guinea to Australia, then at least 43 miles across, as early as 55,000 B.C.

Did You Know?
THE FOUNTAIN PEN, WHICH WAS THE FIRST INVENTION, WAS INVENTED BY LEONARDO DA VINCI IN 1484.



ORIGINALLY DESIGNED FOR OFF-ROAD USE, THE MOUNTAIN BIKE, OR ALL-TERRAIN BIKE, HAS BECOME POPULAR FOR COMMUTING AND RECREATION IN URBAN CITY STREETS.

FOOD FACT
THE FIRST REPORTED CASE OF THE COMMON COLD WAS IN 1900. IT WAS CAUSED BY A VIRUS.

ARTS FACT
MICHAEL JACKSON'S "THRiller" WAS THE FIRST MUSIC VIDEO TO BE RELEASED IN 1982.

SPACE FACT
THE FIRST HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT WAS IN 1961. IT WAS BY YURI GAGARIN.

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STEVE'S MOWING SERVICE. Lots, acreage & bush hog. Call (561) 996-9527. 1/4

CLUBHOUSE FOR SALE. 2/4

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status or sexual orientation. The Sun will not knowingly accept any advertising which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings are available on an equal opportunity basis.

2848 SW 14TH ST., PALM BEACH, FL 33409. family room, fenced yard, many extras. Asking \$71,500. 924-3483. 2/25

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NASCAR

This Week

On TV

All Times Eastern

- Daytona 500 Qualifying
12:30 p.m. • Saturday • CBS
- NHRA, Autuzone Winter Nationals
10:30 a.m. • Sunday • ESPN2
- Winston Cup/Bud Shootout
Noon • Sunday • CBS

POINTS STANDINGS

WINSTON CUP	BUSCH	TRUCK
1. Jeff Gordon, 5,328	1. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 4,469	1. Ron Hornaday, 4,072
2. Mark Martin, 4,984	2. Matt Kenseth, 4,421	2. Jack Sprague, 4,069
3. Dale Jarrett, 4,619	3. M. McLaughlin, 4,045	3. Joe Ruttman, 3,874
4. Rusty Wallace, 4,501	4. Randy LaJoie, 3,543	4. Jay Sauter, 3,872
5. Jeff Burton, 4,415	5. Elton Sawyer, 3,533	5. Tony Raines, 3,586
6. Bobby Labonte, 4,180	6. Phil Parsons, 3,525	6. Jimmy Hensley, 3,570
7. Jeremy Mayfield, 4,157	7. Tim Federowicz, 3,515	7. Stacy Compton, 3,542
8. Dale Earnhardt, 3,928	8. Elliott Sadler, 3,470	8. Greg Biffle, 3,276
9. Terry Labonte, 3,301	9. Buckshot Jones, 3,453	9. Ron Barfield, 3,227
10. Bobby Hamilton, 3,186	10. Hermie Sadler, 3,340	10. Mike Bliss, 3,216

TOP TEN

Weekly rankings by NASCAR This Week writer Monte Sutton. Last week's ranking is in parentheses.

1. Jeff Gordon (1)
Wants Shootout amends
2. Mark Martin (2)
Determined as always
3. Dale Jarrett (3)
Two 500 victories
4. Rusty Wallace (4)
Fastest in testing
5. Jeff Burton (5)
Breakout year?
6. Bobby Labonte (6)
See above
7. Jeremy Mayfield (7)
Wants to keep getting better
8. Dale Earnhardt (8)
Ready to roll again
9. Terry Labonte (9)
Things look better
10. Bobby Hamilton (10)
Not much history at beach

1999 WINSTON CUP SCHEDULE

Date	Track	Location
Feb. 7	Daytona International Speedway	Daytona Beach, Fla.
Feb. 14	Daytona International Speedway	Daytona Beach, Fla.
Feb. 21	North Carolina Speedway	Rockingham, N.C.
March 1	Las Vegas Motor Speedway	Las Vegas, Nev.
March 14	Atlanta Motor Speedway	Hampden, Ga.
March 21	Darlington Raceway	Darlington, S.C.
March 28	Texas Motor Speedway	Fort Worth, Texas
April 11	Bristol Motor Speedway	Bristol, Tenn.
April 18	Marineville Speedway	Marineville, Va.
April 25	Talladega Superspeedway	Talladega, Ala.
May 2	California Speedway	Fontana, Calif.
May 15	Richmond International Raceway	Richmond, Va.
May 22	Charlotte Motor Speedway	Concord, N.C.
May 30	Charlotte Motor Speedway	Concord, N.C.
June 6	Dover Downs International Speedway	Dover, Del.
June 13	Michigan Speedway	Brooklyn, Mich.
June 20	Rockingham Raceway	Long Pond, Pa.
June 27	Sevens Point Raceway	Sevens Point, Calif.
July 3	Daytona International Speedway	Daytona Beach, Fla.
July 11	New Hampshire International Speedway	Long Pond, Pa.
July 18	Rockingham Raceway	Sevens Point, Calif.
July 25	Indianapolis Motor Speedway	Indianapolis, Ind.
Aug. 1	Watkins Glen International	Watkins Glen, N.Y.
Aug. 7	Michigan Speedway	Brooklyn, Mich.
Aug. 14	Bristol Motor Speedway	Bristol, Tenn.
Aug. 21	Darlington Raceway	Darlington, S.C.
Sept. 1	Richmond International Raceway	Richmond, Va.
Sept. 14	New Hampshire International Speedway	Long Pond, Pa.
Sept. 21	Dover Downs International Speedway	Dover, Del.
Oct. 3	Marineville Speedway	Marineville, Va.
Oct. 10	Charlotte Motor Speedway	Concord, N.C.
Oct. 17	Talladega Superspeedway	Talladega, Ala.
Oct. 24	North Carolina Speedway	Rockingham, N.C.
Nov. 7	Phoenix International Raceway	Avondale, Ariz.
Nov. 14	Miami-Dade Homestead Motorsports Complex	Homestead, Fla.
Nov. 21	Atlanta Motor Speedway	Hampden, Ga.

*All-star event

FEUD OF THE WEEK

Jeff Gordon vs. John Bickford

Published reports hinted that relations are not the best between Gordon and the stepfather who molded him into a three-time Winston Cup champion.

NASCAR This Week's Monte Sutton gives his opinion: "What a bogus story. Bickford was hard on Jeff when his stepson was making his way through the open-wheel ranks. Jeff felt some resentment on occasion. What father and son never had such strain? The bottom line is that Bickford helped make Gordon



Gordon

the great champion he is, and Jeff is grateful for his stepfather's positive effect on his career. Jeff is responsible for his own life. Isn't that what being an adult is all about?"

THE WINSTON CUP CIRCUIT

COMING UP: The Bud Shootout
WHERE: Daytona International Speedway, Daytona Beach, Fla.
WHEN: Sunday, Feb. 7
DEFENDING CHAMPION: Rusty Wallace
LAST YEAR'S EVENT: Wallace took advantage of a controversial restart to speed away from Jeff Gordon; then the leader, at the end, Gordon was slow coming up to speed and, despite protests, NASCAR allowed the ragged restart to stand.
FORMAT: The program consists of two events. The field for the Shootout is derived from 1998 pole winners. The drivers who led second-round qualifying in at least one event last year are included in a preliminary race, with the winner transferring into the Shootout. Both races are 25 laps, and both require

a mandatory green-flag pit stop for right-side tires between laps 10 and 12.
HISTORY: This race has been held every year since 1973, but it was known as the Busch Clash until last year, when the preliminary qualifying race and the mandatory pit stops were added.
ALSO THIS WEEKEND: The first two positions in the Daytona 500 field will be determined in time trials on Saturday, Feb. 6.
AFTER THE SHOOTOUT: Following the two 25-lap races on Sunday, Daytona will hold its annual 200-mile race for drivers from the Automobile Racing Club of America (ARCA).

NEW PROVISIONS

A minor NASCAR adjustment to the rules governing provisional starting spots will limit the ability of ex-Winston

Cup champions to make fields this year. An ex-champion — the Category includes Jeff Gordon, Terry Labonte, Dale Earnhardt, Rusty Wallace, Bill Elliott and Darrell Waltrip — now has his potential use of the provisional limited for the first time. However, as long as the driver's car owner remains among the top 25 in the points standings, eight such starts would not be counted against his team.

The only way the rule will come into play is if a driver, like Waltrip last year, needs to use an excessive number of provisionals to secure positions in starting fields.

Waltrip feels he should not need as many because of an off-season change that saw him move to a new Ford team owned by Travis Carter.

PROFILE

Rusty Wallace



Rusty Wallace talks with crew member Jeff Thousand.

John Clark/NASCAR This Week

By Monte Sutton
NASCAR This Week
A year ago when Rusty Wallace won the Bud Shootout, it was symbolic of the end of the veteran driver's jinx at Daytona and Talladega, NASCAR's fastest tracks. Wallace went on to finish fifth in both Winston Cup races at Daytona International Speedway. His average finish was 12.5 at the tracks, which had been his Achilles' heel. He started 13th in last year's Bud Shootout, ran up front throughout and emerged the winner, besting Jeff Gordon in a controversial restart. Wallace turned in the fastest speed during pre-season testing at Daytona.

HOMETOWN: St. Louis, Mo.
AGE: 42

WIFE: Patti
CHILDREN: Greg, Katie
CAR: No. 2 Miller Lite Ford Taurus, owned by Penske Racing South.

CAREER FIRSTS: Start (March 16, 1980, at Atlanta), pole (June 26, 1987, at Michigan), win (April 6, 1988, at Bristol).
DESCRIBE YOUR STRATEGY FOR DAYTONA: "Our goal is to return to Daytona with two cars (one for the Shootout, another for the 500) that are identical. We're hoping to take them off the truck and be able to run the same speed with both of them. At least that's the goal. It seems like there's always one car that's a tick faster or just handles a wee bit better."

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR PERFORMANCE

TURNED AROUND AT DAYTONA? "We finally have the competitive equipment to get the job done on the big tracks. I've said all along that, if we had the right stuff, we could race with them. Well, thanks to a lot of work by our guys in finding the necessary horsepower and thanks to better aerodynamics, we have what we need, and it's really starting to pay off."

HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN DALE EARNHARDT PUT HIS DAYTONA 500 JINX TO REST LAST YEAR? "I was so proud to see Dale win the race last year because he's been chasing that for so long. Well, finally, he caught his big fish that kept getting away, and now it's our turn to get us a Daytona 500 win. That's what we're shooting for."

AROUND THE GARAGE

Racing teams agree to share information, work together

By Monte Sutton
NASCAR This Week
The latest cooperative effort between Cup teams is an agreement between Travis Carter Enterprises (Jimmy Spencer/Darrell Waltrip) and Melling Racing (Jerry Nadeau) to share technical information and work together on performance development.

Pro Motor Engineering also provides engines for both teams. **BIDDING HIS TIME:** In the absence of a full-time ride, driver Tom Hubert will begin the season as a tire changer on the pit crew of Steve Park. Hubert, considered a road-racing specialist in some quarters,

has made occasional starts in both the Cup and Craftsman Truck Series. Hubert has agreed to help Park for the time being, while a permanent tire changer is trained. If Kurt Roeding gets a sponsor to run a limited schedule of Cup races, Hubert stands to be his driver.

JOY IN JOULET: The Joliet, Ill., City Council recently registered its unanimous approval of the 1.5-mile oval track planned for the Chicago area in a joint effort between Indianapolis Motor Speedway Corp. and NASCAR-affiliated International Speedway Corp.

If plans continue to move

ahead, the track will open with seating for 75,000, with plans for hosting three NASCAR series (Cup, BGN and SuperTrucks) and the Indy Racing League. The project's general manager is IRL team owner Dale Coyne.

The construction site is adjacent to the existing Route 66 Raceway, home of the NHRA's Fram Nationals drag-racing meet.

HIGH-ROLLING IN VEGAS: Never one to leave well enough alone, Bruton Smith has already started tinkering with his latest Speedway Motorsports acquisition, Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Construction crews have

already moved 25,000 cubic yards of soil to create an access ramp and a berm in turn three to facilitate additional seating. The track will seat 125,000 by the time the Las Vegas 400 is run on March 7.

IROC LINEUP: This year's lineup for the International Race of Champions consists of Jeff Gordon, Mark Martin, Bill Chambliss, Kenny Brack, CART's Greg Moore, Indy 500 winner Eddie Cheever, Rusty Wallace, Al Unser Jr., Dale Jarrett, Dale Earnhardt, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jeff Burton and CART's Adrian Fernandez. The first of four races will be held Feb. 12 at Daytona.

Fan Tips

Daytona officials have built grandstands and luxury boxes on the back stretch. As a means of marketing the new seats and justifying the ticket prices, we are now asked to refer to that part of the track as the "superstretch." What's super about it? The stands may be new, but the track is still the same.

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